Green Economy Training

Cristina Willard, CPE Director

Katie Thomson, CPE Program Coordinator



Overview and Outcomes

- Continuing Professional Education (CPE) began solar training in 2021
 - 81 participants in classes and green economy event, FY21-24
- Developed a solid foundation of 8 green economy courses
 - Increased presence as regional solar training provider
 - Increased awareness of green economy jobs in the region
- Expanded training options at the Learning and Career Center (LCC)
 - Industry-leading equipment for hands-on student learning
 - Created programs aligned with Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)
- 73% of CPE students surveyed work in the green energy industry



Funding

ILLINOIS GREEN ECONOMY NETWORK (IGEN)

- Curriculum Development Funding to develop eight courses and one event since 2021
- **Equipment and Materials** Solar panels at LCC (at right), as well as solar demonstration units, solar sales classroom, and textbooks
- **Tuition** Tuition support in solar classes totaling \$11,155
- Marketing and Events Marketing and outreach support includes digital marketing campaign, targeted emails, banner, and flyers.
 Hosted Green Economy Event at LCC on April 22, 2022
- IGEN provided \$110,875 from FY21-24

CLIMATE AND EQUITABLE JOBS ACT (CEJA)

Part of consortium of 6 regional community colleges receiving \$3M in funding toward green energy training



PATHS TO COLLEGE AND CAREER

\$1,707 in tuition support



Vinyl Banner Promoting Programs

Continuing Professional Education at Harper College

Prepare for a Green Career!

Professional Training for Smart Energy Careers

- Learn in-demand skills for sustainable industries
- Gain expertise in the field of renewable energy
- Find a career in a growing job market
- Contribute to a greener and more sustainable future

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harpercollege.edu/pro







2025

Program Areas

- Solar Photovoltaic Associate
- Solar Installation
- Technical Sales

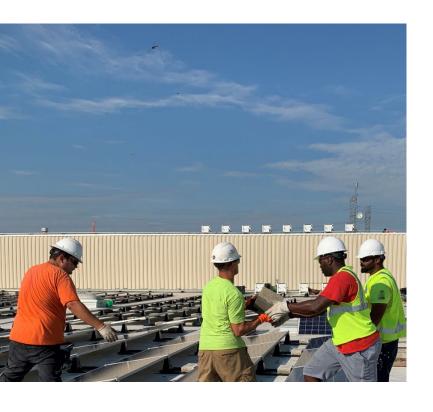
• Cybersecurity in the Smart Energy Environment







Green Economy Outlook



Regional Outlook for Sustainability Careers

Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will Counties - 2021-2024

+12.9%

% Change (2021-2024)

Nation: +12.6%

\$38.90/hr \$80.9K/yr

Median Earnings Nation: \$38.61/hr; \$80.3K/yr 19,935

Annual Openings

Annual wages (median) in Harper region:

- Solar Installers +128% \$45K
- Technical Sales +53% \$122K
- Project Management +7.68 \$101K
- Cybersecurity Analyst +6.3 \$116K

Source: Lightcast



CEJA requires Illinois to transition to 50% clean energy by 2040. Renewable energy production has doubled 2021-2024. Source: Illinois.gov

Instructors

Kyle Barber

- Solar Installation
- Solar Consultant & Instructor,
 Smart Rate Energy

Jacob Bond

- Cybersecurity in the Smart Energy Environment
- Security Analyst, CyberArk

Eric Gronwick

- Technical Sales
- Solar PV Associate
- Solar Sales, GRNE/Nelnet

Corey Wirrick

(shown far right)

- Solar PV Associate
- Solar Installer, Sunrun





Future Opportunities

- Connect CPE green economy programming with Community Education career exploration courses and Harper College credit programs:
 - > Business Administration (green business owners, marketing, sales, accounting)
 - > Cybersecurity (cybersecurity analysts for the smart energy grid)
 - > Electronics Engineering Technology (solar installers, electricians)
 - ➤ **Geography/GIS** (environmental scientist, climate analyst, drone surveying)
 - > HVAC (energy-efficiency specialist, alternative heating/cooling)
- Expand certifications and guided course pathways solar installation, technical sales, and green energy cybersecurity
- Increase outreach and new partnerships green economy companies, associations, electrical union (IBEW Local 134)
- Ongoing funding supporting tuition, solar installation equipment, additional promotion of green economy careers



Thank you!



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